ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A ferroelectric material in which the refractive index change can be induced by irradiation with light at two different wavelengths without performing a reduction treatment or doping impurities. The ferroelectric material of the invention in which the refractive index change is induced by irradiation with light at two different wavelengths is a lithium tantalate single crystal with the composition of $Li_2O/(Li_2O + Ta_2O_5)$ = 0.4966 to 0.4995. Preferably, the ferroelectric material is a lithium tantalate single crystal with the composition of $Li_2O/(Li_2O + Ta_2O_5)$ = 0.4974 to 0.4989. Preferably, the infrared absorption coefficient in the [OH] stretching mode falls within a range of 0 cm^{-1} to 0.15 cm^{-1} (0 cm^{-1} and 0.15 cm^{-1} are included in the range).